

Gero-psych Breakfast Explores Patients, Perils And Probate

By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



Over 100 clinicians gathered at the California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles to attend the 15th Annual Gero-Psychiatric Breakfast, entitled Patients, Perils and Probate: Scams, Cognition, Capacity, Conservatorship & Ethics, on Thursday, December 10, 2015. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) co-hosted the event, along with healthcare providers LA Care and Health Net.

Sarah Gelberd, M.D., Medical Director, LACDMH Older Adult Systems of Care (OASOC) GENESIS Program welcomed the crowd. Introductions and comments on the importance of the event were made by Roderick Shaner, M.D., LACDMH Medical Director, Clayton Chau, M.D., LA Care Medical Director and Jessica Blake, LMFT, Health Net.

“Gero-psychiatry is critical for our department. That’s why this event is important every year,” said LACDMH Medical Director Roderick Shaner, M.D. “Gero-psychiatry represents the pioneering efforts in the integration of health and mental health.”



The first featured speaker was Debbie Deam, MSW, FBI, who spoke on elder scams and mitigating harm against elderly victims. Then Aaron Kaufman, M.D., UCLA, spoke on the impact that cognitive changes and mental illness have on decision-making capacity. After a break, there was a panel discussion featuring information on the Public Guardian and conservatorships. Panel members included: Stephen Read, M.D., Janet Morris, J.D., Connie Draxler, MPA, Deborah Mogil, J.D. and Roderick Shaner, M.D.